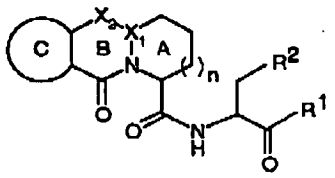
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A compound of formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

$R^1$ is hydrogen, $CHN_2$, R, or $-CH_2Y$;

R is an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a heterocyclylalkyl group;

Y is an electronegative leaving group;

$R^2$ is $CO_2H$, $CH_2CO_2H$, or esters, amides or isosteres of $CO_2H$ or $CH_2CO_2H$, thereof;

$X_2$-$X_1$ is $N(R^3)$-$C(R^3)$ or N=C;

each $R^3$ is independently selected from hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$ aliphatic,

Ring C is a fused aryl ring, provided that the fused aryl ring has an unsubstituted carbon atom at the position adjacent to the -C(O)-N(-)- group in ring B that is adjacent to the side chain comprising $R^1$;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

each methylene carbon in Ring A is optionally and independently substituted by =O, or by one or more halogen, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy.

2. (previously presented) The compound of claim 1 having one or more of the following groups:

(a) $R^1$ is $-CH_2Y$ wherein Y is a halogen, OR, SR, or -OC=O(R), wherein R is an aryl group or heterocyclic group;

(b) $R^2$ is $CO_2H$ or esters, amides or isosteres of $CO_2H$ thereof;

(c) $X_2$-$X_1$ is N=C;

(d) Ring C is a fused five-membered aromatic ring having zero to two heteroatoms; and

(e) n is 0 or 1.

3. (previously presented) The compound of claim 2 wherein:

(a) $R^1$ is $-CH_2Y$ wherein Y is a halogen, OR, SR, or -OC=O(R), wherein R is an aryl group or heterocyclic group;

(b) $R^2$ is $CO_2H$ or esters, amides or isosteres of $CO_2H$ thereof;

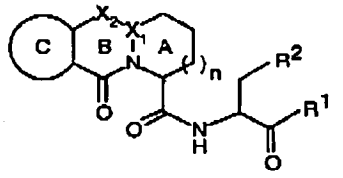
(c) $X_2$-$X_1$ is N=C;

(d) Ring C is a fused six-membered aromatic ring having zero to two heteroatoms; and

(e) n is 0 or 1.

4. (previously presented) The compound of claim 3 wherein $R^1$ is $-CH_2Y$ wherein Y is F; $R^2$ is $CO_2H$ or an ester or amide thereof; $X_2$-$X_1$ is N=C; Ring C is benzene ring; and n is 0 or 1.

5. (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, said compound selected from the compounds:



| Example | $R^1$ | $R^2$ | Ring C | n | $X_1$ | $X_2$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | $CH_2F$ | $CO_2H$ | Benzo | 0 | C | N |
| 2 | $CH_2F$ | $CO_2H$ | Benzo | 1 | C | N |
| 3 | $CH_2F$ | $CO_2H$ | Benzo | 0 | C | C-H |
| 4 | $CH_2F$ | $CO_2H$ | Benzo | 1 | C | C-H |
| 5 | $CH_2F$ | $CO_2H$ | Benzo | 1 | N | C=O |
| 6 | $CH_2F$ | $CO_2H$ | Pyrazino | 1 | N | C=O |

6. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A method for treating ~~a disease or condition selected from an IL-1 mediated disease, an apoptosis mediated disease,~~ an inflammatory disease~~, an autoimmune disease, a destructive bone disorder, a proliferative disorder, an infectious disease, a degenerative disease, excess dietary alcohol intake disease, a viral mediated disease,~~ or a disease associated with cell death, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5.

9. (currently amended) A method for treating a disease or condition selected from uveitis, inflammatory peritonitis, osteoarthritis, pancreatitis, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, glomerulonephritis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, chronic thyroiditis, Grave's disease, autoimmune gastritis, diabetes, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, chronic active hepatitis, myasthenia gravis, inflammatory bowel disease,

Crohn's disease, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, ~~scarring,~~ graft vs host disease, organ transplant rejection, osteoporosis, ~~leukemias and related disorders,~~ myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma-related bone disorder, acute myelogenous leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, metastatic melanoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, multiple myeloma, haemorrhagic shock, sepsis, septic shock, burns, Shigellosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, ~~Kennedy's disease, prion disease,~~ cerebral ischemia, ~~epilepsy,~~ myocardial ischemia, acute and chronic heart disease, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary artery bypass graft, spinal muscular atrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, ~~HIV-related encephalitis, aging,~~ alopecia, neurological damage due to stroke, ulcerative colitis, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, hepatitis-B, hepatitis-C, ~~hepatitis C, yellow fever, dengue fever, or Japanese encephalitis,~~ various forms of liver disease, renal disease, ~~polyaptic kidney disease, H. pylori associated gastric and duodenal ulcer disease, HIV infection, tuberculosis, meningitis, a treatment for complications associated with coronary artery bypass grafts, or an immunotherapy for the treatment of various forms of cancer,~~ comprising administering

to a mammal in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A method of preserving cells, said method comprising the step of bathing the cells in a solution of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5.

12. (previously presented) A method of preserving an organ for organ transplant or for preserving a blood product, comprising the step of bathing the organ or blood product in a solution of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5..

13. (cancelled)

14. (new) A method for inhibiting a caspase, comprising administering to a mammal in need of the inhibiting a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5.